

smokers are developing a taste for American blend, U.S.-grown tobacco is simply too expensive for many world markets. U.S. tobacco is still as much as 30 percent higher in price than competitive tobacco products from Brazil and Zimbabwe, according to Universal's Starkey.

Perhaps an even greater problem for American growers is the financing role the processing companies play in overseas markets. According to analyst Goldman, companies like Dimon contract with a cigarette maker like R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. to deliver a certain grade of tobacco a year from now and ask for a down payment. They then use that down payment to provide cash advances to growers in countries such as Brazil, helping to finance farmers there without putting their own funds at risk.

"When you're loaning a man money to grow a crop or underwriting his loan and furnishing technical advice, it only seems natural that you're going to want to buy his crop first to recoup that investment," said tobacco grower Jenkins. To compete, tobacco growers in Virginia have had to cultivate larger acreages to achieve efficiencies of scale, he said.

"We don't like to buy without having an order," said Universal's Whelan, adding that most of the company's tobacco purchases are made at local auction, which is how tobacco is sold in this country. She said that in only a handful of countries does Universal have advance contracts with growers, in countries such as Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Italy.

The next possible target for expansion for Universal, Dimon and Standard may be processing tobacco for U.S. cigarette manufacturers who now do their own processing, said Scott & Stringfellow's Kasprzak. In recent years Lorillard Tobacco and R.J.R. turned over their leaf purchasing and some processing to Dimon's predecessors, and others may follow suit.

In the meantime, Virginia's tobacco merchants can look forward to doing business in a world that every year consumes more cigarettes with no sign of slowing down.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 89

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] and the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] were added as cosponsors of S. 89, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals and their family members on the basis of genetic information, or a request for genetic services.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the section 170(e)(5) rules pertaining to gifts of publicly traded stock to certain private foundations and for other purposes.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr.

COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to penalties for crimes involving cocaine, and for other purposes.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 830

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 830, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 887

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 887, a bill to establish in the National Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] and the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] were added as cosponsors of S. 896, a bill to restrict the use of funds for new deployments of antipersonnel landmines, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the qualifications for a country to be designated as a visa waiver pilot program country.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr.

WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish incentives to increase the demand for and supply of quality child care, to provide incentives to States that improve the quality of child care, to expand clearing-house and electronic networks for the distribution of child care information, to improve the quality of child care provided through Federal facilities and programs, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], and the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 98, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS 109—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 109

Whereas, Canadian fishing vessels blocked the M/V MALASPINA, a U.S. passenger vessel operated by the Alaska Marine Highway System, preventing that vessel from exercising its right to innocent passage from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19, 1997 until 9:00 p.m. Monday, July 21, 1997;

Whereas, the Alaska Marine Highway System is part of the United States National Highway System and blocking this critical link between Alaska and the contiguous States is similar in impact to a blockade of a major North American highway or air-travel route;

Whereas, the M/V MALASPINA was carrying over 300 passengers, mail sent through the U.S. Postal Service, quantities of fresh perishable foodstuff bound for communities without any other road connections to the contiguous States, and the official traveling exhibit of the Vietnam War Memorial;

Whereas, international law, as reflected in Article 17 of the United Nations Convention